

very nervous till Hesso turned round, and with an awakened expression of face asked how it was that " England had allowed Turkey to grow so feeble that her frontier and Armenia are in a state of anarchy " ? Hesso's handsome face is that of a villain. He does not look more than thirty. He has 200 well-mounted marksmen at his disposal. The father of this redoubtable Kurdish chief died in prison, where he was confined by order of the Shah, and the son revenged himself by harrying this part of the Shah's dominions, and with sixty men, including his six brothers, successfully resisted a large Persian force sent against him, and eventually escaped into Turkey, doing much damage on his way. Hesso on arriving in Kerbela obtained a letter from the Sheikh, or chief *Mollah* there, saying that he offered his submission to the Shah, and went to Tihran, where after seeing the Shah's splendour he said that if he had known it before, he would not have been in rebellion.

Before this the Persians took a strong castle from the Kurds, and garrisoned it with an officer and a company of soldiers. Up to it one day went Hesso boldly, keeping the six men who went with him out of sight, and thumped upon the gate till it was opened, saying he was a bearer of despatches. He first shot the sentry dead, and next the officer, who came to see what the disturbance was about. Meantime the six men, by climbing on each other's shoulders, scaled the castle wall, and by confused shouts and dragging of the stone

roller to and fro
over the roof they made the garrison believe
that it was
attacked by a large force, and it surrendered
at discretion.
The lives of the soldiers were spared, but they
were marched
out in their shirts, with their hands above
their heads.

The Merwana threshing-floor was
guarded at night
by ten men. The following morning we were
to have
started an hour before daylight, but the
katirgis refused